

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) As envisaged in 'National HIV Testing Policy', the mandatory testing for HIV infection of any population group including jail inmates is not recommended. Mandatory testing is only done for screening of blood (not the donor) to eliminate blood transmissible diseases including HIV/AIDS.

(c) The present document on testing policy for HIV is prepared as per guidelines formulated by WHO and consultation with various experts.

#### Medical Treatment

3497. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wounded soldiers of the present Government of Afghanistan are being sent to India for medical treatment;

(b) whether the medical treatment to majority of these soldiers is being provided in the private hospitals and nursing homes located in various parts of Delhi;

(c) if so, the number of wounded soldiers receiving medical treatment in India;

(d) whether the Government of India is bearing the expenses on medical treatment being given to them;

(e) if so, the total amount borne by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) We have no information in this regard.

(c) to (g) Does not arise.

#### Minister's Discretionary Grant

3498. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Government through the Members of Parliament to grant financial assistance from Minister's Discretionary Grant to the needy and poor OBC landless families of Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether the Government have provided grants to these applicants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) During 1996-97, 3 applications were received from Members of Parliament recommending financial assistance to 3 patients from Andhra Pradesh. During 1997-98 only one such case was received. These cases could not be considered for want of specific details which are awaited. One case was not covered under the existing policy and hence was not acceded to.

#### Mica Welfare Fund

3499. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the income and expenditure of Mica Welfare Fund during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of Mica workers benefited in each region under various welfare measures during the last three years;

(c) the efforts made for improving dwindling Mica Fund during last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to levy cess on internal consumption of Mica; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) A statement-I showing income and expenditure under Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund is enclosed.

(b) A statement-II showing the number of beneficiaries under Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund, scheme-wise and region-wise during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) to (e) There has been a steady decline in production of Mica in the recent years primarily on account of falling demand due to development of cheaper substitutes. Imposition of any additional cess or tax could further depress the demand by increasing Mica prices and is therefore not being contemplated

#### Statement-I

##### Income and Expenditure for the last three years

(Rs. in thousands)

Year	Income	Expenditure
1994-95	14,892	23,147
1995-96	20,968	22,683
1996-97	20,347	22,346

**Statement-II***Number of beneficiaries/under Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund during last three years*

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	1994-95			1995-96			1996-97		
		Bhil-wara	Hydera-bad	Karma	Bhil-wara	Hydera-bad	Karma	Bhil-wara	Hydera-bad	Karma
1.	Fatal & Serious accident cases	-	-	5	-	3	1	-	9	-
2.	Patients treated in Dispensaries	28168	-	42250	27527	-	36737	18416	90563	27940
3.	Domiciliary treatment to T.B. patient	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Purchase of Spectacles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5.	Grant of scholarship to children	193	113	81	37	-	69	62	130	59
6.	Supply of one set of uniforms, slates, text books extc.	95	91	154	15	-	90	-	83	79
7.	Attendance incentives	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Mid-day Meal	-	233	-	-	-	-	-	230	-
9.	Organising of Social cultural activities	1	-	-	7	-	3	-	-	-
10.	Exhibition of films	-	13	25	-	-	85	11	-	30
11.	No. of students awarded in Middle & High School	-	-	-	-	-	1460	-	-	-
12.	No. of MPIS	-	-	-	-	-	538	-	-	-

**Indians in UAE Jails**

3500. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Non-Resident Indians detained at present in the jails in UAE and other Gulf countries; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Indian Government to bring them back to Indian?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Following are the figures of Non-Resident Indians detained, as on 31.5.1997, in jails in the UAE and other Gulf countries :

S.No.	Country	No. of Indians in Jail
1.	Bahrain	176
2.	Iraq	4
3.	Kuwait	36 (As on 17.6.97)
4.	Oman	195
5.	Qatar	57
6.	Saudi Arabia	5284
7.	UAE	800
8.	Yemen	2

(b) On receipt of information about arrest of an Indian national, Missions/Posts promptly seek consular access to meet the detainee. The Consular officer first ascertains the grounds and circumstances leading to the arrest. Where necessary, the Mission takes up the matter, at a higher level, with the host Government for either discharge of the detainee or if trial is inevitable, then a speedy conclusion of the trial. The prisoners are released normally on completion of their terms of imprisonment. However, on humanitarian grounds, a number of Missions have succeeded in getting remission of sentences in deserving cases.

**Housing Board**

3501. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a New Housing Board for Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been pending since the last one decade;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?